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Geographic Annex

CIA/RR GB 64-21

June 1964



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GEOGRAPHIC ANNEX

The island of Cyprus, somewhat smaller than Connecticut, consists of the Troodos mountain mass in the south and west, the Kyrenia range parallel to the north coast, and the Mesaoria plain lying between. The climate of the lower parts is warm and dry. There are no permanent streams, and the island suffers from an increasingly serious water shortage.

The total population was 574,013 in 1960, of which 36 percent was urban and 64 percent rural. Nicosia (population 95,515) in the central plain, is the capital and largest town. Famagusta, on the east coast, is the principal port. Some 77 percent of the population belongs to the Greek ethnic group, 18 percent to the Turkish, and 5 percent to minor groups. The Greeks and Turks are intermixed throughout Cyprus, although Greeks and Turks are segregated in individual rural villages and certain quarters of the towns.

Agriculture accounts for about one-third of the exports from Cyprus, but the island is not self-sufficient in food production. The Mesaoria is the principal agricultural area, producing grains, potatoes, citrus fruits, olives and almonds. Vines and tree crops are raised extensively in the foothills and on the narrow coastal plains. The amount of irrigated land increased substantially in the 1950's, but additional facilities are needed. Minerals comprise about 40 percent of the exports. The mineral deposits -- copper and iron pyrites, chromite, asbestos, gypsum, and umber -- are located mainly in and around the Troodos mountains. The principal mining companies are, with one exception, foreign owned. The extensive state-owned pine forests of the Troodos mountains constitute an important resource, and this area was also the site of a developing tourist business before the beginning of the troubles.

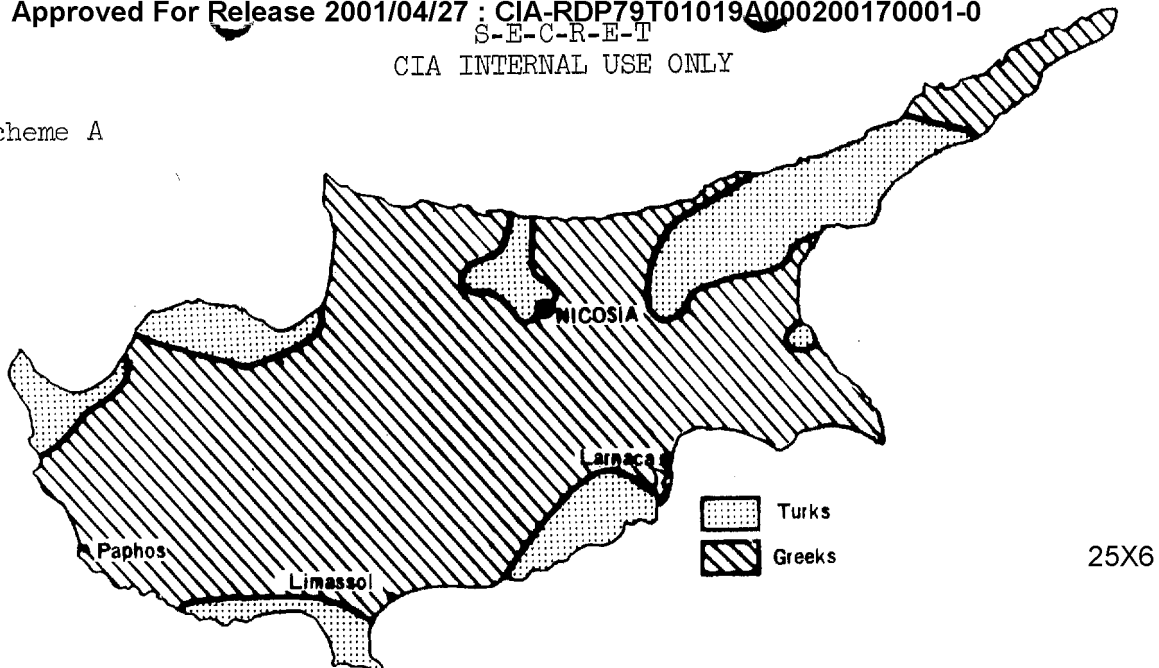
The two largest British sovereign base areas are in the south, near the towns of Limassol and Larnaca, respectively. Even assuming a continued decline in British activity at these two base areas, their continued existence will probably still offer employment opportunities for the local population. Surface transportation is dependent on a fairly good network of hardsurfaced roads. An international civil airport is located at Nicosia and a British military air base at Akrotiri. Electric power is supplied to all areas by a steam plant at Dhekelia, in one of the British base areas. Efficient line and radio relay circuits provide telecommunications services to all parts of the island.

Although the basic decision regarding a solution to the Cyprus problem will undoubtedly be political, this decision should rest on sound geographic, economic, and sociological data if it is to be acceptable and workable. Among the more important problems to be faced are the number of people who would have to be moved, the equitable allocation of land, natural resources, and employment opportunities, and the ultimate viability of the areas selected. The following are summaries of some of the basic facts relating to several proposed partition schemes.

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Scheme A



The modification more closely reflects the current situation and is based on the abandonment of villages and the concentration of refugees.

Population to be moved:

72,660 Greek Cypriots now living in the enclaves
7,175 Turkish Cypriots not yet living in the enclaves
79,835 Total (In addition some residents living in and around the towns of Nicosia, Limassol, Larnaca, and Famagusta, would have to be moved because they would be on the wrong side of the line.)

Strengths: 1. Requires moving the smallest number of people.
2. Approximates the de facto situation.

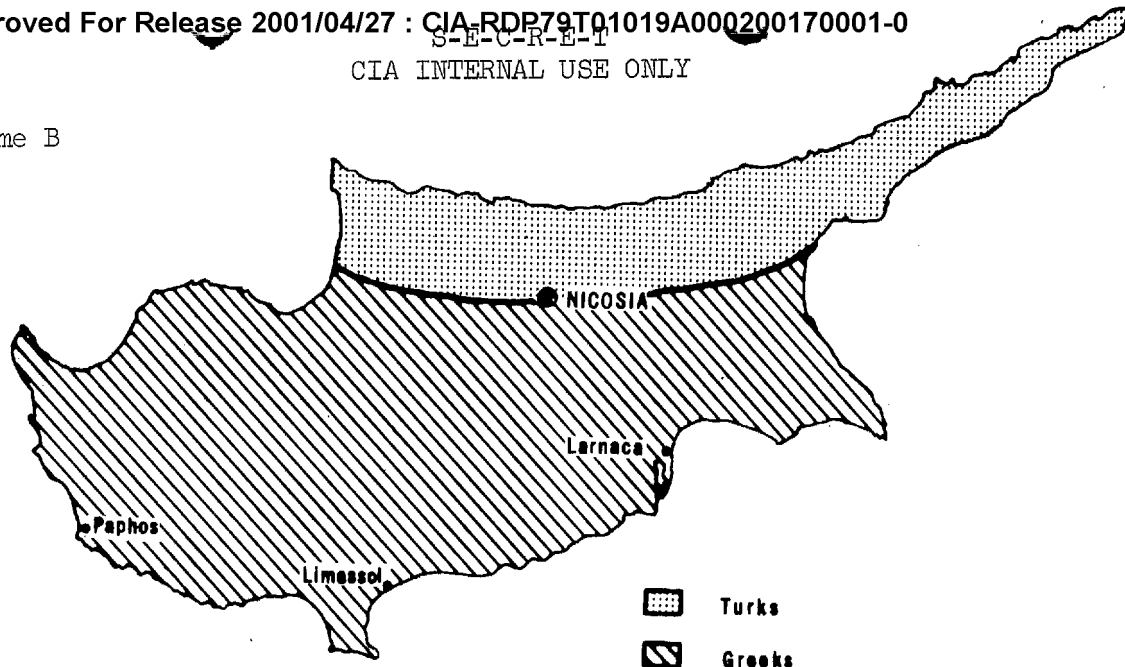
Weaknesses:

1. Such a dismemberment of Cyprus would be extremely difficult to administer even if it could be obtained.
2. Scattered Turkish Cypriot enclaves surrounded by Greek Cypriots would perpetuate the present difficulties.
3. Additional difficulties, such as that of Turkish Cypriots traveling between enclaves, but across Greek Cypriot territory, would be created.
4. Would give the Turkish Cypriots the most productive mines.

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Scheme B



Under Scheme B the Turkish Cypriots would have the northern part of the island as defined by a line drawn between the west and east coasts through Nicosia.

Population to be moved:	Approximate area of private landholdings in new Turkish area:
91,012 Greek Cypriots out	246,802 Acres Greek Cypriot owned
<u>63,247</u> Turkish Cypriots in	<u>65,473</u> Acres Turkish Cypriot owned
154,259 Total plus some from Nicosia and suburbs	312,275 Acres (488 sq mi)

Strength: Turkish area would be nearest to the Turkish mainland.

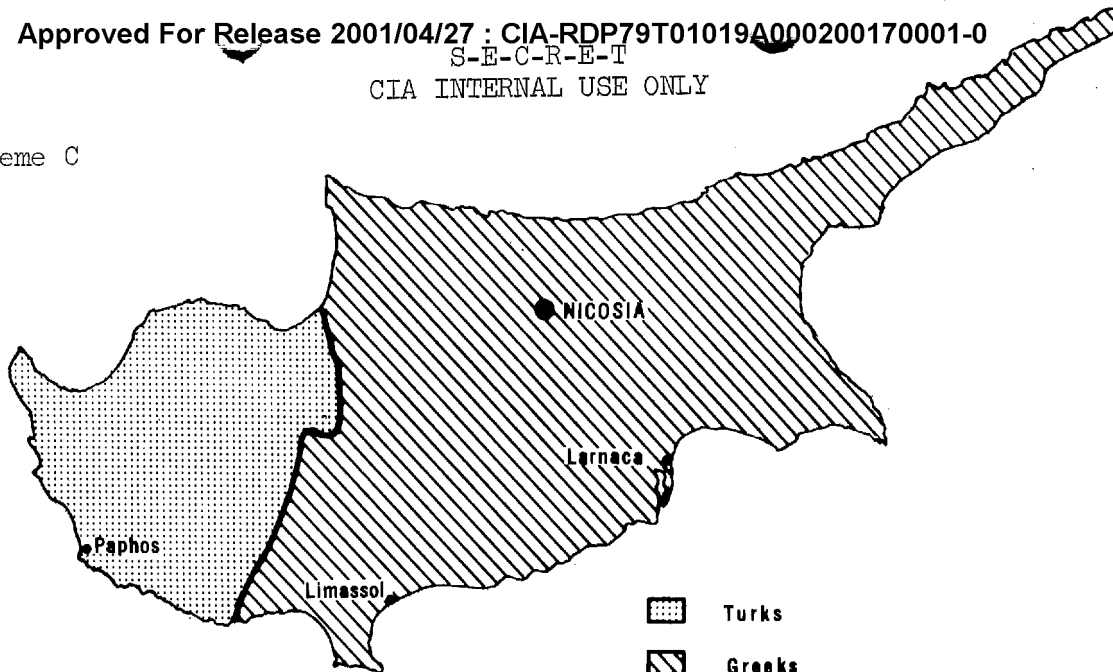
Weaknesses:

1. Allows insufficient accommodation for 41,000 urban Turkish Cypriots.
2. Is not equitable; the Turkish Cypriots increase their holdings from 217,500 acres to 312,275 acres and probably would get more irrigated land than they own now.
3. Turkish Cypriot area has almost no developed mineral resources.
4. Boundary is drawn without regard to physical features of the landscape.

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Scheme C



This scheme for the separation of the two populations is based on physical geography, population distribution, and mineral resources.

It is more equitable and workable than Scheme A or B.

Population to be moved:

73,520 Greek Cypriots out
81,100 Turkish Cypriots in
154,620 Total

Approximate area of private landholdings
in new Turkish area:

190,322 Acres Greek owned
61,598 Acres Turkish Cypriot owned
251,920 Acres (393.6 sq mi)

Strengths:

1. Boundaries are based on drainage divides and define units that can be readily administered. These boundaries provide for relatively easy control of the source of water (for household and industrial uses and irrigation). Being located on divides the boundaries generally pass through thinly settled areas, thus reducing the opportunities for confrontations. Boundaries are also drawn to distribute equitably the mineral wealth of the island.

2. Number of Cypriots to be moved is about the same as in Scheme B, which the Turkish Cypriots suggested.

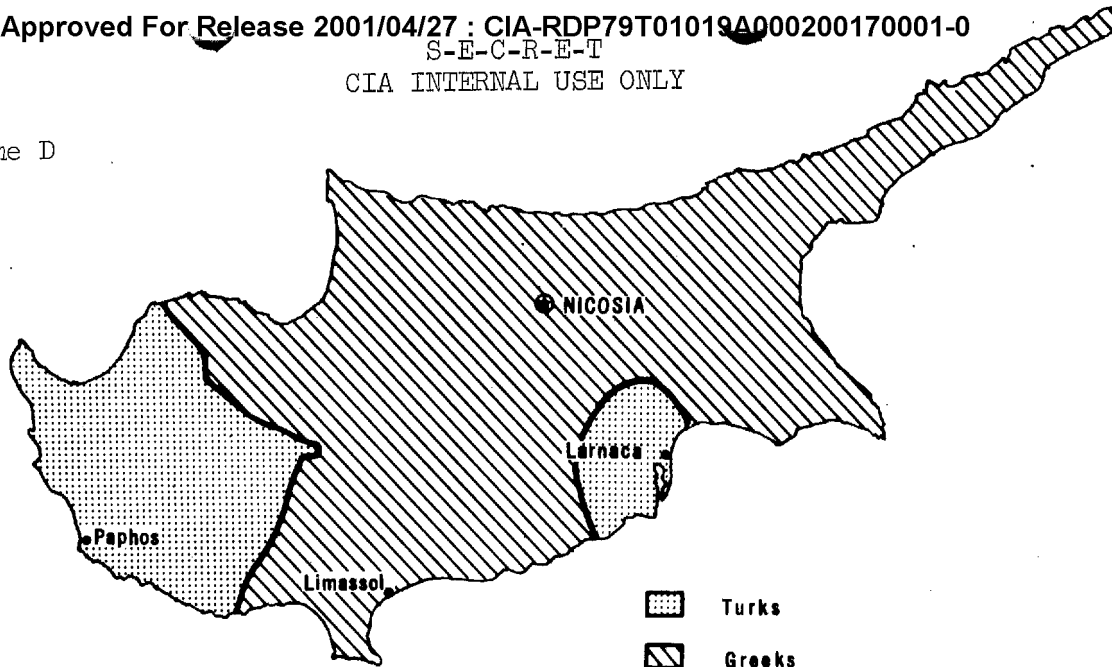
3. The area of privately owned land more closely approximates that of the land now owned by the Turkish Cypriots than does the area involved in Scheme B.

Weaknesses:

1. A large number of urban Turkish Cypriots would have to be accommodated in rural areas.
2. There are few large areas in Turkish portion level enough for farming.
3. Amount of irrigable land available to the Turkish Cypriots is probably less than they now have
4. Turkish area lacks a suitable port.

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Scheme D



Like Scheme C, this scheme for separating the two populations is based on physical geography, population distribution, and mineral resources. In addition, one Turkish area is near a British base where jobs are available.

Two separate areas are set aside for Turkish Cypriots.

Population to be moved:	Approximate area of private landholdings in new Turkish areas:
70,486 Greek Cypriots out	194,180 Acres Greek Cypriots owned
83,762 Turkish Cypriots in	60,870 Acres Turkish Cypriots owned
<u>154,248</u> Total	<u>155,050</u> Acres

Strengths:

1. Like Scheme C, boundaries are based on drainage divides and define units that can be readily administered.
2. Amount of privately owned land more closely approximates the amount of land now owned by the Turkish Cypriots than does the area involved in Scheme B.
3. One of the two Turkish areas is adjacent to a British base area where cash-paying jobs are available.
4. Larnaca, a district town, would provide both port facilities and additional opportunities for some urban Turkish Cypriots.
5. Number of persons moved is about the same as in Schemes B and C.

Weakness: Resettlement of the Turkish Cypriots in two areas not connected with each other would require agreement concerning transportation and communications rights between the two areas.

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